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Attorney Docket No.: MTIPAT.141A (formerly MNFRAME.033A)
US Application No.: 08/943,356
Filing Date: October 1, 1997
Group Art Unit: 2781
Title: MANAGING COMPUTER SYSTEM ALERTS
Examiner: Saleh Najjar

PROPOSED CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

11. (Four Times Amended) A method of monitoring the operational status of components in a computer comprising the acts of:

generating a notification about the status of at least one component in the computer, said notification comprising a first code which contains data about said component, said first code having a first data length;

receiving said notification unfiltered at a remote computer;

allowing a user to selectively disable or enable a [processing] future display of said notification by selecting or deselecting a corresponding notification type in a graphic display; and

transforming said notification into an automatically displayed user-friendly display message comprising a second data length, wherein said second data length is significantly greater than said first data length.

20. (Four Times Amended) A method of monitoring the operational status of components in a computer comprising the acts of:

providing a management information base which is configured to associate a plurality of indexes with different operational parameters related to said components;

generating at least one alert, said alert providing information about a change in an operational parameter in at least one component, said alert comprising one index of said indexes which identifies at least one of said operational parameters;

receiving said alert unfiltered from the computer;

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allowing a user to selectively disable or enable a [processing] future display of said alert by selecting or deselecting a corresponding alert type in a graphic display; and transforming said index in said alert into an automatically displayed user-friendly display message.

21. The method of Claim [22] 20, wherein said index is a variable in said first management information base.

22. The method of Claim [23] 21, wherein said variable is compatible with a computer network which performs Simple Network Management Protocol transactions.

I. Discussion of Rejection of Claims 1-38 Under Obviousness-type Double Patenting

Claims 1-38 were provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over Claims 1-25 of copending Application No. 08/942,005. The Examiner noted that a timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.321(c) may be used to overcome the provisional rejection provided that the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. In response, Applicant will submit a terminal disclaimer, in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.321(c), with respect to copending Application No. 08/942,005, after final examination of the pending claims.

In a telephonic conversation with Applicant's attorney, on April 19, 2001, the Examiner stated that except for the provisional rejection based on obviousness-type double patenting, Claims 1-10, 23-33, 36, and 38 were patentable over the references of record.

II. Discussion of Objection to Claims 21 and 22 Based on an Informality

Claims 21 and 22 were objected to because the claims refer to the wrong claim number. Applicant has amended Claims 21 and 22 to correctly refer to Claims 20 and 21, respectively.

III. Discussion of Rejection of the Claims under 35 U.S.C. 102(e)

The Examiner's position is that Dev et al. anticipates both Claim 11 and Claim 20. More specifically, the Examiner's stated that Dev et al. discloses a system which allows a user to "process further information about an alert by clicking on the corresponding device icon and alert status." However, Applicant submits that in fact what Dev et al. discloses is a multifunction

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icon representing a network device, and that by clicking on specified areas of the icon a user can obtain further information *regarding the device* for which an alarm is registered. (Col. 15, Lines 8-14). For example, when a user clicks on an area [410] of the icon [400], a view showing status information regarding the device is provided. (Fig. 9 and Col. 14, Lines 57-58). In contrast, amended Claims 11 and 20 each recites a method of monitoring the operational status of components in a computer, the method comprising the act of “allowing a user to *selectively disable or enable a future display* of a notification by *selecting or deselecting a corresponding notification type* in a graphic display.” (emphasis added).

Applicant respectfully submits that nowhere does Dev et al. teach or suggest a method that comprises the act of “allowing a user to selectively disable or enable a future display of a notification by selecting or deselecting a corresponding notification type,” as recited in each of amended Claims 11 and 20. Since Dev et al. fails to teach or suggest each element of either Claim 11 or Claim 20, Dev et al. does not anticipate either Claim 11 or Claim 20.

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Attorney Docket No.: MTIPAT.140A (formerly MNFRAME.032A)
US Application No.: 08/942,005
Filing Date: October 1, 1997
Group Art Unit: 2154
Title: ALERT CONFIGURATOR AND MANAGER
Examiner: Saleh Najjar

PROPOSED CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

1. (Four Times Amended) A manager system for monitoring alerts regarding the status of components in an agent computer, the manager system comprising:

at least one processor, said processor configured to display a plurality of alert types to a user in a graphic display, each of said alert types corresponding to a status of components in the computer, said processor further configured to receive a plurality of unfiltered alerts from the agent computer, said alerts corresponding to an alert type; and

an alert module executing in said processor, said alert module configured to allow a user to selectively disable or enable [an automatic] a future display of one or more alert notifications related to said alerts to the user at the manager system by selecting or deselecting a corresponding alert type in said graphic display, said alert module further configured to record said status information associated with said alerts in a storage medium.

13. (Amended 12/20/00) An apparatus for monitoring the operational status of components in a computer, comprising:

a first computer comprising a plurality of components, said first computer configured to generate a notification regarding the status of at least one of said components, said notification comprising a first code which contains data about said component, said first code having a first data length; and

a status module existing in a second computer, said status module configured to receive said notification unfiltered from said first computer, said status module further configured to allow a user to selectively disable or enable a [processing] future display of said notification by selecting or deselecting a corresponding notification type in a graphic display, said status module further configured to transform said notification into a user-friendly display message and automatically display the message, the message comprising

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a second data length, wherein said second data length is significantly greater than said first data length.

22. (Amended 12/20/00) An apparatus for monitoring the operational status of components in a computer, comprising:

a first computer comprising a plurality of components;

a management information base existing in a second computer, said management information base configured to associate a plurality of indexes with different operational parameters related to said components;

at least one alert, said alert providing information about a change in one of said operational parameters, said alert comprising one index of said indexes which identifies at least one of said operational parameters;

an alert module existing in said second computer, said alert module configured to receive said alert unfiltered from said first computer, said alert module further configured to allow a user to selectively disable or enable a [processing] a future display of said alert by selecting or deselecting a corresponding alert type in a graphic display, said alert module further configured to access said management information base to transform said index into an automatically displayable user-friendly message.

25. (Amended 12/20/00) An apparatus for displaying a system management user interface, comprising:

an agent computer, said agent computer comprising a plurality of components, said agent computer configured to send a plurality of unfiltered alerts to a manager computer, said alerts associated with status information of said plurality of components;

a display executing in the manager computer, said display configured to allow a user to select at least two of said alerts; and

an alert manager module executing in the manager computer, said alert manager module configured to enable or disable [the automatic] a future display of any combination of selected said alerts in response to a single command from the user, said single command corresponding to a selection of an alert type in a graphic display by said user.

34. (Amended 12/20/00) An apparatus for monitoring the operational status of components in a computer, comprising:

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a first and a second computer interconnected with a network, said first computer comprising a plurality of components;

a first means for associating a plurality of indexes with different operational parameters related to said components, portions of said first means existing in said second computer;

at least one alert, said alert providing information about a change in one of said operational parameters, said alert comprising one index of said indexes which identifies at least one of said operational parameters;

a second means existing in said second computer, said second means configured to receive said alert unfiltered from said first computer, said second means further configured to allow a user to selectively disable or enable a [processing] future display of said alert by selecting or deselecting a corresponding alert type in a graphic display, said second means further configured to access said first means to transform said index into an automatic user-friendly display message.

Discussion of Rejection of Claims 1, 13, 22, 25, 34 and 35 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

The Examiner rejected Claims 1, 13, 22, 25, 34, and 35 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 5,751,933 to Dev et al in view of WO 95/09387 to Weele et al.

Applicant has amended Claims 1, 13, 22, 25, and 34 to clarify that the system recited in each of those claims allows for selectively disabling or enabling *a future display* of an alert (or multiple alerts) corresponding to an alert type. Applicant respectfully submits that neither Dev et al. nor Weele et al., singly or in combination, teach or suggest this feature of the subject claims.

Applicant directs the Examiner's attention to Claim 35, which recites a user interface configured to allow a user to selectively disable or enable one or more alert notifications for *future display* to the user. Hence, Claim 35 is patentable without any further amendment for the reason stated above with regard to the other rejected claims.